

The Examiner has identified the compressible pad 19 in Adams '971 as the spacer portion required by claim 1. However, there is no teaching in the '971 patent that the pad is removable and the reference provides no motivation to remove the pad. To the contrary, the teaching at col. 2, lines 52-61, that the pad allows the hook to hold more weight is a teaching against removing the pad. Consequently, the claims are patentable over the Adams '971 patent.

The Examiner has cited, but not relied upon, other references which teach door hooks having a set screw. The set screw in each door hook can be turned but is not detachable and configured for reattachment as required by claim 1. Other references such as the door hook of U.S. Patent No. 2,743,023 have a projection from the back side, but that projection is not removable. Consequently, none of the cited references provide any teaching, suggestion or motivation to modify the door hook disclosed in Adams '971 to create the door hook with removable spacer defined by claim 1. Accordingly, the claims are patentable over the art of record.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview granted on July 7, 2005. As set forth in the Interview Summary Sheet, the Adams '971 patent was discussed and the undersigned explained why the spacer portion required by pending claim 1 as not taught or suggested by the reference.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn J. Alstadt", written over a horizontal line.

Lynn J. Alstadt

Registration No. 29,362

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL, P.C.

One Oxford Centre

301 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Attorney for Applicant

(412) 562-1632